

# Cinco de Mayo Classroom Activities

## Infants (0–12 months)

### 1) Fiesta Scarf Watching

#### How to implement:

- Use soft colorful scarves or fabric squares in bright colors.
- Slowly move one scarf up, down, and side to side for babies to watch.
- Let babies touch the scarf if they reach for it during supervised play.
- Talk about the colors and movement as you gently wave the scarf.

### 2) Cinco de Mayo Music Time

#### How to implement:

- Play soft festive music during floor time or group time.
- Gently shake a baby-safe rattle or shaker to the beat.
- Pause and start again so babies can hear the difference in sound.
- Help babies hold and move a shaker if they are ready.

### 3) Color Tummy Time

#### How to implement:

- Place babies on a soft blanket for supervised tummy time.
- Put bright paper shapes or fabric squares in front of them.
- Slowly move one item from side to side to encourage visual tracking.
- Name the colors as babies look and explore.



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# Young Toddlers (12–24 months)

## 1) Shake and Dance Parade

### How to implement:

- Give each toddler a child-safe shaker or maraca.
- Play lively music and model shaking high, low, fast, and slow.
- Invite toddlers to walk with you in a short classroom parade.
- Use simple directions like “shake,” “walk,” “stop,” and “turn.”

## 2) Sticky Paper Fiesta Collage

### How to implement:

- Tape contact paper to a wall or table with the sticky side facing out.
- Set out bright tissue paper squares for toddlers to pick up.
- Show them how to press the pieces onto the sticky surface.
- Display the finished collage in the classroom.

## 3) Instrument Basket Exploration

### How to implement:

- Fill a basket with toy drums, bells, and shakers.
- Let toddlers choose an instrument and explore how it sounds.
- Play music and encourage children to tap or shake along.
- Pause the music to practice stopping and listening.

# Toddlers (2 years)



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### 1) Tissue Paper Fiesta Art

#### How to implement:

- Give each child paper, glue sticks, and bright tissue paper pieces.
- Show them how to press tissue paper onto the glued paper.
- Encourage children to cover the page with color.
- Let dry and display as festive classroom art.

### 2) Follow the Beat

#### How to implement:

- Gather children in a circle and play music with a clear beat.
- Model one movement at a time, such as clapping or stomping.
- Keep each movement going long enough for children to copy it.
- Repeat simple patterns so the activity stays easy to follow.

### 3) Flower Stamp Painting

#### How to implement:

- Use flower-shaped sponges or stampers with washable paint.
- Show children how to dip the sponge lightly into the paint.
- Press the sponge onto paper to make flower prints.
- Talk about the colors and count the flowers together.

## Preschoolers (3 years)

### 1) Paper Plate Maracas

#### How to implement:



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- Let children decorate two paper plates first.
- Add a small amount of beans or rice inside one plate.
- Place the second plate on top and tape or staple the edges shut.
- Use the finished maracas during music and movement time.

## 2) Fiesta Parade

### How to implement:

- Give children scarves or homemade instruments to carry.
- Play music and lead a short parade around the classroom.
- Encourage marching, waving, and gentle instrument shaking.
- End with a circle time cool-down.

## 3) Pretend Taco Stand

### How to implement:

- Set up a dramatic play table with pretend food and menus.
- Let children take turns being the cook, customer, or helper.
- Model simple phrases like “What would you like?”
- Encourage turn-taking and pretend serving.

# Pre-K (4 years)

## 1) Papel Picado

### How to implement:

- Pre-fold tissue paper or construction paper for children.
- Show them how to make simple scissor cuts along the edges.



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- Open the paper to reveal the design.
- Tape finished pieces onto string to make a class banner.

## 2) Fiesta Color Sort and Count

### How to implement:

- Put colorful pom-poms or paper circles in one pile.
- Have children sort them into bowls by color.
- Count how many are in each bowl together.
- Add number cards for extra counting practice.

## 3) Flower Garland

### How to implement:

- Give children paper flower cutouts to decorate.
- Punch a hole in each flower when finished.
- Help children string the flowers onto yarn.
- Hang the garland around the room as decoration.

# Kindergarten (5–6 years)

## 1) Celebration Banner

### How to implement:

- Give each child a banner shape cut from construction paper.
- Let them decorate it with bright colors, flowers, and patterns.
- Attach all banner pieces to a long piece of string.
- Hang the class banner across the room.



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## 2) Rhythm Pattern Game

### How to implement:

- Use rhythm sticks, drums, or clapping hands.
- Tap or clap a simple pattern for children to copy.
- Repeat each pattern before changing to a new one.
- Let children create their own patterns for the group to follow.

## 3) Celebration Writing and Drawing

### How to implement:

- Ask children to draw themselves at a classroom celebration.
- Encourage them to include music, decorations, and activities.
- Have them write a sentence about their picture.
- Let children share their work with the class.

# School-Age (6+ years)

## 1) Advanced Papel Picado

### How to implement:

- Give children tissue paper and scissors.
- Show them how to fold the paper and cut detailed designs.
- Open the paper and admire the finished pattern.
- String the pieces together for a classroom display.

## 2) Group Mural

### How to implement:



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- Roll out a large sheet of butcher paper on a table or wall.
- Invite children to work together to create one large mural.
- Encourage them to add flowers, banners, instruments, and patterns.
- Display the mural as a class project.

### **3) Fiesta Math Station**

#### **How to implement:**

- Set up a station with counters, task cards, and paper.
- Include activities like sorting, addition, or pattern making.
- Let children rotate through the station in small groups.
- Keep the colors and materials festive to match the theme.



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